

PETER MINUIT'S MISTAKE.

He Lost Money When He Bought Manhattan Island for Twenty-Four Dollars.

History tells us that 268 years ago, or in 1626, Peter Minuit bought Manhattan island from the Indians and paid for it \$24 in merchandise.

It has usually been thought that Peter took advantage of the ignorance of the untutored savage and made an excellent bargain for himself.

No doubt but that Peter thought it a good trade, particularly when he considered the value of lots after the streets would be laid out, Central park improved, Brooklyn bridge built and the island had a population of two millions; for Peter was a shrewd real estate speculator and looked a long way ahead with a correct, prophetic eye.

Notwithstanding all of Peter's shrewdness and foresight he made the mistake of his life and lost millions of dollars by his purchase. He didn't stop to figure interest.

Since 1626 the rate of interest in this country, where money has always been in demand, has ranged from six per cent. up to highway robbery. It will be conservative to say that eight per cent. is a fair average.

Now, if Peter had loaned his \$24 at eight per cent. compound interest, from then until this date, what would its value be, compared with the value of Manhattan island?

At eight per cent. compound interest, money will double once in about nine years. Now, there have been twenty-nine times nine years, and seven years more, since Peter made his purchase. Then, if he had loaned his \$24 he would have had nearly \$400,000 at the end of the first one hundred years, and more than \$200,000,000 at the close of the second century, while in 1894 his principal of \$24 would have grown to be \$20,000,000,000—the value of Manhattan island many times over.

So, in fact the Indians got the best of the bargain, and no doubt they chuckled over the situation as they walked through Baxter street with the \$24 worth of merchandise in their arms.

OFFICIOUS FLOOR WALKERS.

How Shoppers Are Annoyed and Lives of Clerks Made Miserable.

The officiousness of floor walkers in certain dry goods stores—not often found supplemented by the zeal of young women behind the counter—is sometimes embarrassing. Even if one projects large purchases one more often than not prefers small fuss about it, but it is awkward and a trifle mortifying if you just want to look about to have some one insist on escorting you to some particular counter.

A little of the superfluous energy might needfully be absorbed by the shopwomen, who often find it too troublesome to listen attentively to what one wants.

Entering a Sixth avenue store one day last week, a lady saw it was not the one she had meant, and naming the store she wanted to an attendant, asked him how many doors away it

was.

She had not got out of earshot with her directions before the floor walker pounced on the attendant to know how it was he had let a possible purchaser escape.

"Could you not have told her she'd do better here? You're no business man. Don't talk to me about simply answering a question. She was a customer, and if you were worth your salary you wouldn't have let her go."

The lady in question heard all this. It cost her an embarrassment in feeling and threatened to cost the poor attendant an embarrassment in fact, as she left the floor walker plying the lash with a vigorous purpose which might end in driving his victim out.

THE IGUANA.

A Snake Story That Comes from the Sunny South.

In South America, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, snakes are very numerous, but their enemies are numerous. Perhaps the most notable of these snake killers is the large lizard known as the iguana. The iguana is no mean adversary, as may be judged from the fact that dogs which attack one often come off with a broken leg. The lizard does not wait for the snake to take the offensive, but goes swiftly in pursuit, and being very rapid in its motions, rarely has any difficulty in overtaking its victim, which it dispatches with blows from its powerful tail. I remember a funny experience I had with one of these lizards which clearly illustrates its hatred for snakes. I was riding with a friend in search of cattle. My lasso was attached to the saddle and the end trailed along the ground behind me. A big iguana lay in the sun apparently asleep. It paid no attention to my horse as it passed, but the next instant it raised its head and fixed its attention on the twenty feet of lasso slowly trailing by. Suddenly it rushed after the rope and dealt it a succession of violent blows with its tail. When the whole of the lasso, several yards of which had been pounded in vain, had been dragged by, the lizard with uplifted head continued to gaze after it with evident astonishment. Never before had such a wonderful snake crossed its path.

Another Yellow Jacket.

The "Yellow Jacket" of which Hung Chang was recently deprived the symbol of Chinese royal and imperial favor, as well as of the high power. It is a much-coveted, therefore, little worn garment. The first Marquis Tseng Kow-fan rode high in his opinion of the emperor his day that his majesty drew on his own coat and placed it upon the worthy subject's back. To show appreciation of the gift, and the honor of it, the marquis, who for many years, never allowed it to be moved from his back. Years ago he presented a local contingent of its grease and indescribable filth. It had become from this cause as stiff as a board. When the marquis died his yellow coat was buried with him.

ONE OF

Expert Thieves for Badly

The fine parties which are now to dry goods stores peculiar use sneak thieves their stamping ground. York Sun. Recent of the Fourteenth pocketbook in one of the ladies' pay the superintendent to contain a check a number of little intendent hunted person to whom payable and wrote down the next ownership of the day passes with rifled pocketbook. "and," said store, "and," tective on ground time, it seems thieves. The fact is that the really expert pickpocket and sneak thief who works the dry goods stores will take nothing except cash and valuable jewelry. He will not take the risk of detection which the ordinary thief does. Checks, trinkets and small articles of no special value the expert thief throws away.

"They rarely examine their booty in the same store in which they steal it. Take the pocketbook of this woman, for instance. She was not in our store at all on the day that the pocketbook was found here. The pocketbook was taken from her at a swell store uptown. The thief evidently hastened away as soon as the theft had been committed, came down here and examined the pocketbook, took out the cash, which, I believe, amounted to sixty or seventy dollars, and threw the rest into the waste basket. Of course, all these expert thieves are women. Under their present system their operations are very successful. The ordinary thief goes around grabbing here and there, and waits until he has collared all the